



ecology and environment, inc.

160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811

International Specialists in the Environment

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carolyn Douglas, EPA Region IX
FROM: James M. James, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *jmj*
DATE: May 8, 1992
SUBJECT: Completed Work, Work Assignment No. 20-18-9J00
CC: Lisa Nelson, WAM

Attached is the following completed:

PA _____ SI _____ EPI PA _____ PA Review _____ SI Review _____

NPL Prioritization _____ SWIFT PA _____ SWIFT SI _____

Other: SWIFT Preliminary Assessment Action Memorandum

Site Name: Beckman Lumber Service, Inc.

EPA ID #: CAD983594201 (4054)

Address: 19500 South Alameda Street
Long Beach, CA 90745

County: Los Angeles County

Latitude: 33° 51' 01" Longitude: 118° 13' 01"

State Recommendation:
(for Reviews only)

FOR EPA USE ONLY

CERCLIS Lead: EPA

PA complete 5/27/92 yd.

tc/bls/cwm-trans

recycled paper

Wong 6/3/92

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International Specialists in the Environment

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ACTION MEMORANDUM

SUBMITTED TO: Carolyn Douglas, EPA Region IX Site Assessment Manager
PREPARED BY: Tim Colen, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *TK*
DATE: May 6, 1992
SITE: Beckman Lumber Services, Inc.
EPA ID#: CAD983594201
E & E REVIEW/CONCURRENCE: *James M. James 5/8/92*

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tasked Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E) to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of Beckman Lumber Services, Inc. (Beckman) in Los Angeles County, California. This report summarizes E & E's investigative efforts. Beckman was selected for a PA because of its inclusion in a July 1991 site discovery memorandum to EPA listing wood treatment facilities (1). This site appears inelligible for a full SWIFT PA because information collected by E & E indicates there were no hazardous materials ever used at the site (2).

2. SITE SUMMARY

The Beckman Lumber Service, Inc. site is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, occupies approximately 3 acres, and is entirely paved. The site is an inactive wood drying facility which commenced operations in approximately 1954 and continued until shortly after the founder's death in 1988 or 1989. Prior to wood drying, the site was probably used for strawberry farming. At the height of its operations, the site employed 6 or 7 workers (2).

It appears that the site was never involved in the chemical treatment or preservation of woods. The facility never handled or stored creosote or metal-containing solutions. Instead, it conducted wood drying operations, a process in which green wood is placed in ovens and dried over gas-fired boilers. There were four ovens on site which were dismantled and removed when operations ceased (2).

The only agency regulating the site was South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) which permitted emissions from the boilers until 1988 or 1989. The facility did not produce wastewater and, in fact, had no sewage hook-up (1). There are no other agencies that are involved with the regulation of this site (3,4,5,6,7,8).

A portion of the site is under lease to Hardwoods Unlimited, a company owned by the late founder's son, and is used for wood storage. The remaining portion of the property is under lease to Oakley Forest Products, a company that manufactures finished lumber products such as moldings. Neither of the present occupants of the site handle or store hazardous substances nor are they involved in wood treatment (1,9).

The most significant HRS factors related to Beckman Lumber are:

- o The lack of hazardous substances being handled or stored on site, either now or in the past.

3. EPA RECOMMENDATION

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Date</u>
No Further Remedial Action under CERCLA	<u>cyd</u>	<u>5/27/92</u>
Higher-Priority SI under CERCLA	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lower-Priority SI under CERCLA	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Defer to Other Authority (e.g., RCRA, TSCA, NRC)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Notes:

4. REFERENCES

1. Reackhof, Sharron L., Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E), to Jim Quint, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX (EPA), "Memorandum: Site Discovery -- Wood Treating," July 1, 1991.
2. Beckman, George, Hardwoods Unlimited, and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 25, 1992.
3. Johnson, Julie, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 10, 1992.
4. Ponck, Blythe, California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 10, 1992.
5. Saffell, Ann, RWQCB, and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 10, 1992.
6. Yeh, Brian, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and Tim Colen, E & E, March 10, 1992.
7. Klinger, Tom, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 12, 1992.
8. Quint, Jim, EPA Region IX, and Tim Colen, E & E, telephone conversation, March 12, 1992.
9. Oakley, Ron, Oakley Forest Products, and Jim James, E & E, telephone conversation, April 3, 1992.

CONTACT LOG

Facility Name: Beckman Lumber Service, Inc.
Facility ID: CAD983594201

Name	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
Julie Johnson	DTSC	310/590-4980	3/10/92	There are no files for Beckman, either by name or address.
Blythe Ponek	RWQCB	213/266-7580	3/10/92	She has no info on the site. Call Ann Saffell at 266-7551 about groundwater.
Ann Saffell	RWQCB	213/266-7551	3/10/92	She has no info about the site.
Brian Yeh	SCAQMD	818/572-6200	3/10/92	This site is not familiar to him and is not now active.
Tom Klinger	LA County Dept of Health Services	213/744-5328	3/12/92	This is not a site that is undergoing any remediation. County DHS has no files on the site. Also, it is not listed on the ASPIS database.
Jim Quint	US EPA	415/744-2346	3/12/92	He has no info on the site other than what's in the FACTS database and Sharron Reackhoff's memo for FIT.
Clerk	LA County Business License Dept.	213/974-2012	3/12/92	Their files show no info for this address, but the business might not have needed a license. Call the County Tax Assessor at 213/974-0993.

Clerk	LA County Tax Assessor's Office	213/974-0993	3/12/92	The parcel number for the site's address is 7306- 017-003. Records show that taxes are due on it.
George Beckman	Beckman Lumber Lumber Service	213/638-6695	3/25/92	See Contact Report
Ron Oakley	Oakley Forest	213/537-1888	4/3/92	See Contact Report

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Beckman Lumber Service, Inc.		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: 19500 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: Los Angeles County, CA 90745		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. George Beckman	Pres., Hardwoods Unlimited	714/282-8190
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Tim Colen		DATE: 3/25/92
SUBJECT: Information on facility		
SITE NAME: Beckman Lumber Service, Inc.		EPA ID#: CAD983594201

The site is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County and has a Rancho Dominguez mailing address. Beckman Lumber is an inactive wood-drying facility founded by the late Charles Beckman, George Beckman's father. The facility began operations in approximately 1954, prior to which the land was probably used for strawberry farming. Operations continued until shortly after the senior Beckman's death in 1988 or 1989. The site occupies approximately 3 acres in an industrial area and is entirely paved. Mr. Beckman said that when operations commenced, the site was probably 70 percent paved except for the rear of the property which was incrementally covered over the years. At the height of operations, the site employed 6 or 7 workers.

Charles Beckman owned 90 percent of the shares of the company and, following his death, the shares were transferred to a trust. George Beckman owns the remaining 10 percent.

Mr. Beckman stated that the site was never a wood treatment facility and was never involved in the chemical treatment of woods. He reiterated that there was never creosote or metal-containing wood treatment solutions ever present on site. Beckman only operated as a wood-drying facility, in which green wood is placed in ovens and slowly dried over gas-fired boilers. This is a process in which the heat applied changes from high humidity-low heat to low humidity-high heat. There were four of these ovens on site which are now inactive. The site has been gutted of all wood-drying equipment. The only agency regulating the site was SCAQMD which permitted emissions from the four boilers until 1988 or 1989. The facility did not produce industrial wastewater and, in fact, did not have a sewerage hook-up.

A portion of the site is under lease to Hardwoods Unlimited, a company owned by George Beckman, and is used for wood storage. The remaining half or two-thirds of the property is under lease to Oakley Forest Products, a company that manufactures finished lumber products, especially moldings.

Contact Ron Oakely of Oakley Forest Products at 213/537-1888 for information regarding their operations.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Oakley Forest Products		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: 19500 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: Los Angeles County, CA 90745		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. Ron Oakley	President	213/537-1888
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Jim James		DATE: 4/3/92
SUBJECT: General information regarding Oakley Forest Products		
SITE NAME: Beckman Lumber Service, Inc.		EPA ID#: CAD983594201

Mr. Oakley stated that the facility conducts no treatment of wood. Their business consists of the manufacture of wood moldings with lathes. The process produces wood shavings and sawdust which go to a vat for eventual off-site disposal. They conduct no varnishing or further finishing of wood on site.